

receptacle contact, said beams being opposed and spaced from each other by a distance less than a distance between said spaced-apart walls and wherein distal portions of said opposed beams can come into contact with each other when said contact is inserted inside said plug housing because the space between said opposed beams is unobstructed by said plug housing.

REMARKS

Claim 57 is rejected under 35 USC § 112, ¶ 2 and 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Davis. These rejections are traversed.

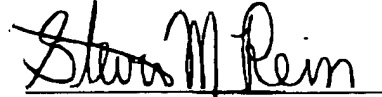
Concerning the rejections under 35 USC § 112, ¶ 2, the examiner states that there is no support in the original specification for a claim reciting a connector having signal and power capabilities, etc. While this would seem to be a § 112, ¶ 1 issue, in any event, the specification provides ample support for such a connector. See e.g., specification, p. 6, lines 24-26 (referring to signal pin array 90).

Concerning the rejections under 35 USC § 102(b) and Davis, once again the applicant has tried to prove to the Examiner the difference between the claimed "dual mass" contact and the "single mass" contact of Davis.¹ In particular, the difference Applicant has chose to focus upon at this time concerns the fact that Davis's projecting section (i.e., the area between fingers 9) is not unobstructed. Rather, at least divider 7, lances 20, and the web having grooves 19 therein fill the area between fingers 9. These various members will inhibit heat flow as well as do not meet the claimed "unobstructed" language. Thus, for this reason, claim 57 is not anticipated by Davis and an early indication of the allowability of claim 57 is requested.

¹ See Specification, Summary of the Invention.

Finally, Applicant requests formal notification from the Examiner that the identification of the inventors has been corrected per the paper filed by Applicant of September 9, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by fax to Examiner H. Vu of the USPTO at Fax number 703-746-4157 on 4 February 2003.



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2/4/03

Date of Signature

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Marked-Up Claims

57. (Amended) Matabl electrical connectors having signal and power capabilities, comprising:

(a) a power receptacle comprising an insulative receptacle housing having at least one conductive receptacle contact, said receptacle contact comprising a pair of spaced walls forming therebetween a plug contact receiving space; and

(b) a power plug comprising an insulative plug housing having at least one conductive plug contact (inserted therein), said plug contact comprising a pair of spaced-apart walls, said spaced-apart walls each having a platebeam extending therefrom, said platesbeams forming a projecting section engageable in the plug receiving space of the receptacle contact, said platesbeams being opposed and spaced from each other by a distance less than a distance between said spaced-apart walls and wherein distal portions of said opposed platesbeams can come into contact with each other when said contact is inserted inside said plug housing because the space between said opposed beams is unobstructed by said plug housing.